

GIFT CONTAINER

This is application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/422,182, filed October 25, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to novelty gift containers, more specifically, a transparent novelty gift container for holding small gift items, such as chocolates, cheeses, soaps, rose petals, toys and so forth.

Personalized gift giving has become very popular through the years to celebrate life's special events. From graduations to baby showers and birthdays to
10 holidays, personalizing products has become a mainstream idea. Even large businesses and hotels have decided to add their own 'personal touches' to make employees and guests feel welcomed and appreciated. What once used to be considered an arts and crafts type project to be done with grandma has now become a big business.

15 Currently, there are many storage type containers that are capable of displaying photographs or other memorabilia through transparent walls. However, the walls take away from the volume of the container's storage space. In addition, one must purchase such a container with a factory-made type insert. Although this

may be useful for some purposes, such as a generic “Happy Birthday” or a generic “Happy Anniversary,” what happens when you wish to give a more personal gift to stand out from the others? For instance, what if you wanted your container to display “Happy Birthday Kaelani.” Because Kaelani is such a unique name, you would most likely be unable to purchase any type of storage container bearing her name. If the parents of this child would like the gift container to bear her name, they would not be able to purchase such a product anywhere.

Another example is when a large company would like to give its employees a special thank you gift. Rather than going to the store and purchasing an impersonal trinket, the directors would like to give the employees something bearing the name of the company to promote teamwork and unity. However, the only current method of purchasing such items is by going through a mass distributor to have the items personalized, which can take weeks to receive and can be very costly.

Thus, the present invention helps to create personalized gift containers which can quickly, easily and inexpensively be made at home or business.

The prior art includes the following United States patents:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
4,901,456	Cotutsca	11-21-1988	02-20-1990

	3,716,936	Miller	06-17-1970	02-20-1973
	4,897,948	Owen	09-18-1987	02-06-1990
	5,630,512	Wells	02-23-1996	05-20-1997
	4,195,729	Macken	01-12-1979	04-01-1980
5	5,226,252	Haluska	02-15-1991	07-13-1993
	3,774,332	Schneider	03-23-1971	11-27-1973
	4,979,325	White	01-16-1990	12-25-1990
	3,760,521	Barraya	02-26-1971	09-25-1973

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The primary object of the present invention is to provide a gift container that permits personalized inserts to be placed so as to be visible from the outside.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a gift container that can be made at home or at work.

15 An even further object of the present invention is to provide a gift container that comes in various shapes and sizes to accommodate various shaped and sized items.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a gift container that is aesthetically pleasing.

20 An even further object of the present invention is to provide a gift container that is musical.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a gift container

that is inexpensive to make.

The present invention fulfills the above and other objects by providing a gift container composed of two pieces: a bottom section and a top section. In one embodiment, the bottom section has four sides, a bottom and an open top while the top section is slightly larger than the bottom section, has four sides, a top and an open bottom so that said top section slides over the bottom section to form a closed container. A folded three-sided label is designed to slide into the bottom section of the container either vertically so one side of the panel is visible through three sides of the container or the bottom section so that it is visible through the top and two sides of the container.

In another embodiment, rather than the gift container having four sides, the bottom and top sections are circular so there is essentially only one continuous side. The top section is still slightly larger than the bottom so that said top section slides over the bottom section to form a closed container. The label is designed to slide into the bottom section of the container either vertically so that it is visible through the side of the container.

The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading

of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This invention is described by appended claims in relation to a description of
5 a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the gift container present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the bottom section of the embodiment of

10 **FIG. 1;**

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the top section of the embodiment of **FIG. 1;**

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** with a personalized label insert;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a personalized label designed for the
15 embodiment of **FIG. 1;**

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a second embodiment circular gift container of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a side view of a personalized label insert designed for the embodiment of **FIG. 6**;

FIG. 8. is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a side view of a first holder for the present invention;

5 **FIG. 10** is a perspective view of a second holder for the present invention;

and

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** with a musical bow attachment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

10 Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 15 | 1. bottom section | 11. musical bow |
| | 2. top section | 12. label insert section |
| | 3. top cover | 13. label insert for circular container |
| | 4. bottom | 14. groove |
| | 5. side | 15. gift container holder with pocket |
| | 6. open portion | 16. pocket |
| 20 | 7. candy | 17. edge |
| | 8. label insert | |
| | 9. musical winder | |
| | 10. gift container holder | |

With reference to **FIG. 1**, a perspective view of one embodiment of the present invention is shown. The gift container has a transparent bottom section 1 and a transparent top section 2. The top section 2 is sized slightly larger than the bottom section 1 so that the top section 2 fits over the bottom section 1 to form a closed container. The bottom section 1 has a bottom 4 and four sides 5. The top section 2 has a top cover 3 and four sides 5.

With reference to **FIG. 2**, a perspective view of the bottom section 1 of the embodiment of **FIG.1** is shown. The bottom section 1 has a bottom 4, four sides 5 and an open portion 6.

In **FIG. 3**, a perspective view of the top section 2 of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown. The top section 2 has a top cover 3, four sides 5 and an open portion 6.

To fill the container, the user places items through the open portion 6 of the bottom section 1. To close the container, the user places the open portion 6 of the top section 2 over the bottom section 1.

With reference to **FIG. 4**, a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG.1** with a personalized label insert 8 is shown. First, the label 8 is placed vertically in the bottom section 1 so that it is visible through three sides 5. Because both the

bottom section **1** and top section **2** are transparent, the label **8** is clearly visible. Next, candy **7** or other trinkets are placed in the container. Finally, the top section **2** is placed over the bottom section **1** to form a closed container.

With reference to **FIG. 5**, a perspective view of a personalized label insert **8** designed for the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown. The label insert **8** has three distinct label portions **12** to correspond to the sides **5** of the container.

In **FIG. 6**, a perspective view of a second circular embodiment of gift container of the present invention is shown. The embodiment has a circular top cover **3** and a circular bottom **4**, thus requiring only one side **5** portion. Once again, the top section **2** is slightly larger than the bottom section **1**, so the top section **2** slides over the bottom section **1** to form a closed container.

The circular top cover **3** could also be sized so as to cover only a small portion of the side portion **5**.

With reference to **FIG. 7**, a side view of a personalized insert label for a circular container **13** is shown. The insert label for a circular container **13** does not have the distinct label sections **12** of the label insert for a square container illustrated in **FIG. 5**.

In **FIG. 8.**, a perspective view of a third embodiment of the present invention

is shown. The container has a musical winder **9** attached to a side **5**. When the user wants to hear music from the container, he/she simply turns the winder **9**.

In **FIG. 9**, a side view of a rocking gift container holder **10** for the present invention is shown. The rocking holder **10** is shaped as a horse, but can come in numerous shapes and designs. A groove **14** is cut below the winder **9** so the user
5 can wind the container while it is secured in the holder **10**.

With reference to **FIG. 10**, a perspective view of a second gift container holder with pocket **15** for the present invention is shown. To secure the container in the holder **15**, the user places the container into the pocket **16** portion of the
10 holder **15**. The edges **17** overlap portions of the top section **2** of the container. The edges **17** are elasticized so as to stretch.

Finally, with reference to **FIG. 11**, a perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** with a musical bow **11** attachment is shown. When the user presses the bow **11**, music can be heard.

15 The containers are of various shapes and sizes so as to accommodate gifts of various shapes and sizes.

The labels **8** and **13** are pre-printed on high gloss paper for a professional appearance and personalized using a computer software program. The labels **8** and

13 have at least 55 different designs to suit most occasions.

The holders **10** and **15** come in a variety of shapes and sizes to suit most occasions.

Further, future embodiments of the present invention allow for the containers
5 to be placed in flower arrangements and gift baskets.

The use of the present invention will allow both home users and business users to personalize gift containers quickly, easily and inexpensively.

It is to be understood that while a certain form of the invention is illustrated,
it is not to be limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described
10 and shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may
be made without departing from the scope of the invention and the invention is not
be considered limited to what is shown and described in the specification and
drawings.